

message that has stirred the hearts of men wherever Christianity has been preached. The world was not waiting for some one to tell them, "Be honest," "Be virtuous." Paganism had told them that time and again. Neither was it waiting for some one to announce the fact that there is an immortal life. Cicero and Socrates had said that, but that for which the whole world had been groaning and travailing for was the message that a deliverer had come, who was able to break into pieces the despotism of sin, free man from its terrible grasp, and empower him to live a life pleasing to God and satisfying to himself. The consciousness of evil is universal; a feeling of conflict, of disorder, of unrest is diffused thru-out all humanity. This, in itself, is an expression of man's consciousness that he belongs to another world; and it is also an instinctive confession of man's inability to free himself from the present world in which he finds himself. In all ages, man has been longing for power, some one to deliver him from the world of sin and unrest and enable him to attain that life that is free from these. The poet has expressed the universal cry of man in these lines:

"O for a man to rise in me,
That the man that I am might cease to be."

The Easter message is above all else, that such a deliverer has come, thru whom man can be freed from the power of sin and brought back into peace and harmony with God. Christ as the Son of God has triumphed and the life laid down for the world has been taken up again. He has not only brought life and immortality to light, but he overcame the world and has promised to man that he in him may also overcome the world. Blessed thought! We now have new visions of guidance and power; the desire to live after the new ideals is accompanied with the promise of power. The life that I now live in the flesh I live by faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me."

Such indeed is the message of Easter—a message of *love*, of *hope*, of *deliverance*; and it is moreover, the message that the world most needs. Men need to know that God loves them, that there is a personal immortality and a present deliverer from the guilt and power of sin.

THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

J. L. KIMMEL

God made man to live, and not to die. He stamped the seal of immortality upon man in his creation. The fact that man was created in the image of God made him immortal. Man is responsible for death himself, and not God. It was by man's own deliberate transgression that death came into the world. "The day thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die," was the decree that had gone forth from the great Jehovah, and thus sin came into the world, and death by sin. God's method of dealing with man, had he never sinned is not quite so clear. How long man would have remained in the world or just under what circumstances he would

have been translated to a higher world is a mystery. But God no doubt would have attended to that matter in His own good way as he did in the case of Enoch and Elijah who never knew death. Just what God's method of procedure would have been in translating man into a higher sphere is not the question. The fact remains that God created man to live but man brought upon himself death. For almost six thousand years death has been having dominion over man. And man with all his inventive genius has not been able to extricate himself from the cruel embrace of this old tyrant. The cold dark dismal grave has been awaiting every one, and yet nothing so shocking as death, nothing so horrible to him as the grave. Nothing from which the human mind so much recoils as the thought of dying. No other visitor so unwelcome as he who comes to take from us our loved ones that the grave may be satisfied. Who could count the tears or calculate the sorrows or number the graves or picture the misery brought about by this mounstrous king of evil. What about this old tyrant? Shall his power ever be broken? Shall we ever be liberated from his dominions? Yea our hope is in Jesus Christ, he who restored the daughter of Jairus to life and gave back to the widow of Nain her only son and called Lazarus forth from the tomb. Went down himself into this pit of despair that he might forever destroy its power. The third day he came forth a triumphant victor. He appeared to his disciples on the different occasions and to five hundred brethren at once. Thomas who would not believe unless he could have a physical demonstration of Christ's resurrection was fully convinced and cried, "my Lord and my God." To Paul Christ appeared on his way to Damascus and to John on the Isle of Patmos. Josephus, a Jewish historian declares that Christ appeared to his disciples on the third day after his crucifixion. No other event in all ancient history is more fully and conclusively settled than the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It was the great theme of the Apostles in their day. It supported the martyrs at the stake and with this hope within them the early Christians were willing to face the wild beasts in the arena. And all down thru the Christian era it has brought hope and inspiration to those who believed. It has taken away the cloud of gloom from the melancholy, given comfort to the weary and hope to the dying. "I am," says Jesus, "the resurrection and the life. Whosoever believeth in me tho he were dead yet shall he live, and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

Thank God for Easter Sunday and for its hallowed associations and for the hope and inspirations it brings to our hearts.

EASTER THOUGHTS

J. M. TOMBAUGH

Of all the year there are two anniversary days which stand out above the rest like mountain peaks from a level plain. These two days are Christmas day and Easter, and

if to those we add Good Friday we have the anniversaries of the three most stupendous events which have ever transpired in the world's history.

At Christmas time we keep the anniversary of the Savior's birth. Good Friday commemorates his death; but at Easter we celebrate an event which is relatively more important than either of the others. If there were no Easter, Christmas would lose all its meaning. What would it profit the world, tho the angels came from heaven to sing at the nativity of Jesus, if that life whose advent they heralded had gone out in starless night forever? If there were no Easter to celebrate, the cross would lose its power, and the crucifixion and death of Jesus would have meant the ending of all hope. Our faith is vain, our hope is a delusion and the whole of the splendid fabric which Christianity has been rearing falls at once into utter and hopeless ruin, if Christ be not risen. Everything that is vital and hopeful in our religion depends upon the fact of his resurrection. It is not only the promise and proof that we too shall live after death, but the fact that he rose from the dead proclaims the founder of our religion to be divine. It reveals his power and is certain evidence that all his words are true. Tho sceptics and scoffers may argue against the divinity of Christ and seek to overthrow our religion by endeavoring to prove that Jesus was only a mortal man, yet all these opposition falls before our stupendous and splendid fact—he rose from the dead.

The early church made much of that fact because it put the stamp of genuineness on all Christ's claims. If he has risen, they reasoned, then all he had claimed and taught them about himself was true, and the man Christ Jesus was the Lord from heaven.

If he has risen then death does not end all, as the Sadducees and modern materialists teach, there is light in the tomb, there is hope in the future, there is life beyond. That light and life and hope are ours now—the gift of the risen Lord to all those who, truly risen with Christ, are seeking those things which are above. Light, effulgent, glorious light, shines out from the opened tomb. If the earth was draped in darkness when that awful tragedy was being enacted on Calvary, what a wealth of light must have flooded and thrilled the universe when Jesus came forth from the tomb, the conqueror of death, hell and the grave. That light abides, a day-star in our hearts. The resurrected Lord makes possible the resurrected life in his disciples now. *Because I live ye shall also.* He gives life, not the promise of it after death alone, but full abundant life here and now.

Let us learn the Easter lesson, for every death that men die this side of the judgment, Jesus is the resurrection and the life. The angels at the sepulcher said to the wondering women on that first Easter morning, "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" And yet the world continues its search among the tombs. The churches seek to electrify